REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner for acknowledging receipt of foreign priority document, Japanese Application No. JP2000-381273, that has been submitted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 119 and/or PCT Rule 17.2(a).

Claims 12 has been added in order to claim further subject matter as disclosed in the specification.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Examiner's rejection of claims 1 - 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Examiner has rejected these claims in view of the cited prior art reference of Ohmori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,949,189). The Ohmori reference is directed to providing for a two-sided scanning apparatus for reading images which exist on both sides of a document and supplying the image data thus read as a serial image file to a printer and/or display. Nothing in Ohmori, however, teaches or suggests Applicants currently claimed invention.

More specifically, Ohmori fails to read on the plain requirements of the claim. Applicants invention is directed to a method and apparatus for providing a plurality of groups of image sensors on a single chip plain and wherein the driving means reduces the effect on the output signal of one group of sensors caused by the noise arising from the read-out operations of another group of sensors. More specifically, Applicants have found that by gating the transfer driving signals of the other groups of sensors, the output of a first group of sensors having a different read-out period can be improved. Ohmori fails to teach or suggest such a device.

Regarding the claims, Ohmori fails to teach a **plurality of groups of line-sensors,** which during a read-out period of a first group of sensors, stopping transfer driving of the signal charges of another group of sensors. See, for example, amended claim 1. The in Rather, Ohmori teaches the deposition of a single line sensor on either side of the document 1. Notwithstanding the above, and regarding claim 2, Ohmori further fails to teach or suggest the formation of the line sensors 3a and 3b on the same chip. Rather, Ohmori necessarily requires that each sensor be formed on a different chip in order to allow for the scanning of opposite sides of a document 1. Regarding claim 4, Ohmori further fails to teach or suggest the transfer driving of a pre-determined number of the final transfer stages of the charge-transfer part of the group of sensor which are stopped (See the top of page 15 of Applicant's disclosure). Regarding claim 5, Ohmori fails to teach the simultaneous operation of the plurality of sensors using the same output timing by restarting the stopped group of sensors.

For similar reasons to those stated above, Applicants submit that claims 6 – 12 are also in condition for allowance.

Examiner's remaining references cited but not relied upon, considered either alone or in combination, also fail to teach applicant's currently claimed invention. In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Reg. #37,607)

Robert J. Depke
TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI, BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.
105 W. Adams Street, 36th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Tel: (312) 704-1890
Attorney for Applicants